

**Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood
Programme – Programme Centre (EIACP PC)
on
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore**

Environment management not only plays an instrumental role in optimally utilizing natural resources but also forms the pivot of sustainable development. To reinforce India's efforts towards effective environment management the Environmental Information Awareness Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) has been envisaged. Awareness, skilling and research and development in green sector forms some of the major pre-requisites for rational management of environment. The programme draws its mandate from The Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 wherein "Environment Research and Development, Education, Training, Information and Awareness" has been allocated to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Program Centre on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) has been functioning at Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) since October 2014. The programme centre is entrusted with the responsibility of documentation and dissemination of knowledge on genetic resources of important tree species available with various stakeholders across India. A database on the available forest genetic resources with various stake holders in south India is maintained in the website www.ifgtbenvis.in. 'VAN VIGYAN' (ISSN: 2394-7543), a quarterly newsletter is being released. Various activities on FGR organized in the form of Conferences, Seminars and Workshops both across nations and within India are made available in the website. IFGTB EIACP PC celebrates various International Days of Environmental importance. Knowledge products are released and disseminated during these occasions for creating awareness among students and public. The website also contains kids' corner, farmers corner and updates on various environmental related issues. The website updated on daily basis is a source for forest related research at the click of a button. In addition the programme centre has also released three Mobile Apps, Tree Pests of India, Forest Tree Diseases (English and Tamil version) and Forest Seed Science and Technology.

Realizing the importance of the green skills and analysing the market conditions and demands, EIACP PC (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) at IFGTB, Coimbatore is organizing various certificate courses under the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India from 2018 onwards. The major aim of the programme is to impart green skill in the youth especially school dropouts. The programme aims at attaining the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs). Both theory and practical sessions most suited for the themes are included in the modules of the GSDP courses. In addition, hands-on training and field trips are being arranged to commercial clonal nurseries, bio-fertilizer production units, pioneer industries and various research and educational institutions to provide a real time exposure. Lectures on entrepreneurship

development and banking linkages are also being imparted to motivate the participants to become entrepreneurs and for seeking self-employment. 212 trainees from different parts of the country were trained under GSDP so far.

Aims and Objectives of IFGTB EIACP PC:

The aims and objectives of the IFGTB EIACP PC are as furnished hereunder:

- To nurture green, sustainable and inclusive workforce in order to enhance both living and environment standards while fostering gainful and self-employment of youth.
- To conduct skilling courses not only in traditional areas but also in new emerging areas like electric vehicles, hazardous waste/ Bio-medical waste etc. considering their future scope, requirements and prospects.
- To be involved in the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) being conceptualized by the Ministry.
- To facilitate technical and environmentally conscious industrial participation focused on sustainable development.
- To develop national and international collaboration for knowledge exchange and skilling and facilitating attainment of the SDGs.
- To aid sustainable livelihoods of tribal population especially in NER based on traditional knowledge and crafts.
- To facilitate informed decisions and policy making by catering to demand for research, innovation and data on emerging issues related to environment.
- To facilitate transition to environmentally conscious futuristic citizens including awareness among public/communities on environment related issues.